

Mohave County Miner.

VOL. XXVI.

KINGMAN, ARIZONA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1908.

NO. 52

Vulture Sale Revives Old Tales.

Wickenburg, Ariz., Sept. 16.—The news of the sale of the old Vulture mine to a syndicate of Boston people for half a million dollars, has revived the old tales of the halcyon days of that great bonanza. The Vulture has produced many millions of dollars. It is known that 16,000,000 has been taken out, besides much more that was never placed on record. There are now thousands of tons of ore in sight, but the old-timers aver that the richest lead of all is cut off from the outside world by many tons of dirt and rocks.

The ore which is in sight is mostly low grade. When the Vulture mill closed down, 4½ rock was being treated according to tradition. Just how rich it is the old timers have forgotten. Though it may not surpass other discoveries in the amount of mineral to the ton, there is so much of it that it means millions of dollars to the owners when it is uncovered.

The date of the great cave-in which hid the rich ore from the outside world has even been forgotten. Near a score of men were entombed, but after more than 25 hours of unceasing labor they dug their way into another drift and escaped to freedom by a stope. Another cave-in closed this way of access to the treasure.

The Vulture, though it produced many millions of dollars, was always worked very cheaply. The various owners did not timber the underworkings as they should, and miners knew them to be dangerous places to work. But there are always men reckless enough to work anywhere if they are well paid for it, and the real necessity of using timbers was never brought home to the owners.

Vast rooms were hollowed out underground. In many places the roofs of these rooms were ready to fall. One day a roof did fall, and fell so as to block up that part of the mine in which fabulously rich rock had been found a short while before. About 20 men were imprisoned.

Among these men were some who had long worked at the Vulture and knew the works thoroughly. They knew where to dig to strike another drift, and for 25 hours the entombed men labored with might and main to dig a passage. They knew that if they stayed where they were they would die for lack of air before they were rescued, thought they might survive for some time without water and food.

After a day and night of incessant labor they made to the other drift. This, too, was closed up at the end by the cave-in, but they got out of the mine through a stope. Tradition says that not one of these men ever worked in the Vulture again. On top of the ground, at some distance from the main shaft, was a vast hole, 40 feet deep, where the crust of the earth had slid down into the workings. A short time after their escape there was another cave-in. This closed up the stope and drift by which they had escaped. The Vulture's richest ore was hidden in a dark recess of the earth with many million tons of rock barring the way.

No attempt has ever been made to uncover it. It was obviously impossible to tunnel through the rock which caved in, as it was broken up and cracked until it could no more be tunneled than sand. To drift around required more money than the owners cared to spend. The people who sold the mine the other day knew of the hidden richness and often thought of drifting to it, but were afraid that the tales of the extent of the strike might not be strictly true. They told other people of the hidden ore and finally found some who were willing to buy the mine and search for it. It is understood that the first work of the Boston syndicate will be to run a drift into the closed chambers, where, history says, the richest rock ever discovered in the Wickenburg section awaits the coming of man.

Picacho Basin Mines Working Steadily

Willis Lawrence, superintendent of the Picacho Basin mine, was doing business in Yuma yesterday and gave

a very encouraging report of the conditions of his camp and the mines of that part of California.

They are working about 100 men there now and are not making any great stir or extra exertion, to be noticed, quietly pursuing their business in their own way, regardless of all comers.

The water pipe line from the river to the mill was finished yesterday and they have all the water they need for their own works, getting now about 50 gallons per minute through a 3-inch pipe. This water is raised over a 600-foot grade, and is forced up by a 20-horse power gas engine, using a 4-inch triplex plunger pump. The old mill, which was by the river side, is now dismantled, and much of the machinery is now on the ground and ready for the active work of placing in position at the mine. This job is expected to be finished sometime near the beginning of next year.

When the mill is placed there, the force of men will hardly be increased, but the kind of labor will be materially changed. The major part of the working force will then be underground miners, and these will be equipped with the very latest in labor saving devices, that the rock may not have to be handled but once. An air compressor and Murphy drills will be put into use as soon as they can be of service, and every pound of rock brought out will be handled by machinery from the stope to the plate and tanks.

The power that is to drive all the wheels will come from a gas engine that is new and of 220 horse power, and it is to be fed by the very latest device that is, making its own gas from crude oil, and exploding almost every particle of the gas in the engine, only a very small part of the by-product, or waste from the oil, appearing in the form of lamp black and floating off.

The company that owns and operates this is a close corporation and what they have to say is "straight goods," given for the benefit of the country, not to force or stimulate a stock gamble.—Yuma Sun.

Great Oil Field.

H. H. Clark of Utah and Nevada, more familiarly known as "Bullfrog" Clark, who was and is one of the leading spirits in the development of the Sagebrush state, and who is at present operating in the new Virgin oil fields, is spending a few days in the city, combining business with pleasure.

Mr. Clark was loth to speak of his present business plans in the Virgin fields, and was finally induced to communicate what he thought would be of interest to the public.

The Utah-Arizona Consolidated Oil company (Mr. Clark's) own outright 26,000 acres of oil lands, and are the most extensive operators in the district. A close corporation controls the property and no shares have been offered for sale, the entire capital stock having been taken by the members of the company, which is composed of Eastern and Western bankers and railroad men.

A meeting of the company was held Friday, when future plans were mapped out, it being decided to at once install two more standard rigs and one portable, and to drill holes and plug them up until such time as a pipe line can be completed.

The first company to operate in the Virgin fields owned 1480 acres, Mr. Clark being a silent partner therein, but owing to bad management the company became deeply in debt and financially demoralized. Saturday Bert L. Smith and Mr. Clark took over the entire stock, paying all the debts, amounting to about 12,000\$, and it is the intention to start active development work on the property at once. A rig is already on the ground. This property lies between two of the best wells in the district, and has one well in oil now.

It is the opinion of Mr. Clark that the district will become the greatest oil country ever known, owing to the vast extent of the territory, which is over 23 miles in length, while the width is problematical.—Salt Lake Tribune.

Yuma Mining Property Sold for Good Price.

All recent records in Arizona in the sale of mining property have just been broken by the sale of the General Grant mining claim in the Ellsworth district, ten miles north of Vicksburg, on the Arizona and California railroad, for 85,000\$ to John S. Wright, of St. Louis.

Wm. Wilson and George Glowner are the sellers. They recently closed the deal with Wright in Flagstaff. In the General Grant claim, on which 150 feet of development work has shown a big deposit of high-grade gold ore, there are only twenty acres. This means 4,500\$ for every acre in the claim. According to the terms of the sale, Wright pays 10,000\$ down, 15,000\$ as soon as a mineral patent is secured, 25,000\$ in six months, 25,000\$ in one year and 10,000\$ in eighteen months.

Wright plans to put a force of men at work without delay, and take out ore, which will be shipped to the El Paso smelter. There is already thousands of dollars worth of rich ore in sight. Wright visited the property some time ago, and was so pleased with the prospect that he lost no time securing an option at 85,000\$. He returned to St. Louis and Chicago, and with little difficulty secured the money to make the first payment of 10,000\$.

Several prominent experts have visited the General Grant claim and pronounce it one of the biggest gold deposits in the territory. Some of the assays made have run into the thousands of dollars in gold to the ton.—Yuma Sun.

Five Years off is Production of Alaska Copper.

An eminent mining engineer, who has spent considerable time in Alaska examining copper properties there, says: "The production of copper from Alaska in any amount is at least five years away, so that no immediate attention need be paid to that situation."

"Mining in Alaska is a rich man's proposition, and before the Guggenheims received their severe jolt in Wall street, they were pushing things in Alaska. They have stopped aggressive work now, however, and mining there has taken a temporary slump, awaiting a return to better mining conditions."

"Millions of dollars have gone into this territory, but it will take many more millions before there will be any substantial investment returns, especially in copper. For some time work can be attempted only during six months of the year, and this situation will apply until the mines are sufficiently opened under ground to permit of all-the-year mining. Labor also is tremendously high, which will be a deterrent factor."

"There are many very substantial copper deposits in Alaska and in years to come that country will probably be a valuable mining territory, but whether or not the Alaska deposits are of glacial origin and of shallow depth, it is too early to say. In the Valdez district copper has been followed to a depth of 400 feet, where it was lost, but has come in again at a depth of 600 feet."

"The Guggenheim railroad will play a considerable part in opening Alaska, but copper people need to take no consideration of copper production from Alaska for five years at least. By that time additional copper supplies may be a necessity if the electrification of steam roads makes the progress now in prospect."—Copper Era.

An Improved Gold Dredge.

To build mammoth gold dredges, says the Mining World, with buckets up to 13 cubic ft. and capable of digging 180,000 cu. yds. of hard gravel per month at a total cost of only three cents per yard is to accomplish the dream of the manufacturer whose customers have extensive gravel deposits and a well filled purse—not the man or company with limited dredging land and small finances.

What the majority of owners of dredging land are looking for is a machine, small, efficient and cheap—a dredge with improvements that elim-

inate the faulty details of construction of the larger types, and one whose light build will not be a handicap when operating on hard gravel.

For some time past the Mining World has been encouraging investors and engineers to design a gold dredge that will embody the above mentioned requirements. One enterprising engineer appears to have succeeded in accomplishing his object, and according to his working drawings has perfected a small gold dredge with a single oscillating dipper bucket capable of handling 1,000 cubic yds. of gravel daily from a depth of 25 feet. The dredge is constructed of spiral riveted pipe, asphalted, draws eight inches of water; dumps all its material aboard, and is fully equipped with modern gold saving devices. The length of the dredge is 100 feet, its width 26th feet, and it carries 30,000 pounds of machinery. The cost is low. The designer expects to give the dredge a trial in California.

The question of mining the vast quantities of gold known to exist in placers is of great economic importance, whether the result is accomplished by dredging or other means, and the machine or appliance that can do the work cheaply and efficiently will make a fortune for its designer.

King Coalition to Pay 187,500\$.

The directors of the Silver King Coalition Mines company met yesterday and posted the promised dividend of 187,000\$, or 15 cents a share. Transfer books will close on the 20th and payment will follow on Oct. 1. This action on the part of the Silver King Coalition is in line with what General Manager Thomas Kearns said would be done upon his return from the east a few weeks ago. The formal action of the directors has been delayed a week because of the fact that a quorum of the board was not in the city.

The mines of the company are now giving a good account of themselves, and a large tonnage of high-grade crude ore and concentrates are finding their way regularly to market. Before the holidays last year the company trimmed its forces materially and made no effort to market ore. The force employed was kept almost exclusively on development work and the blocking out of new ore bodies. At the present time the force employed is nearly what it was before the panic, the payrolls covering about 350 men.

The market for silver and lead is not as good as the management would like to see it, but so much work is being done in and through ore bodies at the present time that production is practically imperative to avoid congestion and the repeated handling of the product of the stopes and drifts.—Salt Lake Herald.

A Rand Dividend Earner.

The annual report of the Robinson Gold Mining company of the Rand, South Africa, shows that the company has a working profit for the past year of 4,640,345\$, of which 3,300,000\$ was paid out in dividends, equal to 24 per cent for the year. The balance carried forward is increased from 490,200\$ to 1,210,200\$. The total amount of ore developed in the mine at the end of the fiscal year amounted to 2,770,236 tons of an average assay value of 11.97 dwts. of gold a ton, being an increase of 598,536 tons in quantity though the value was somewhat lower.

Working costs were greatly decreased from Jan. 1, showing a reduction in cost a ton from 4.90\$ to 3.38\$, and now it has been brought down to 3.12\$ a ton. The company was organized in 1887 and has paid some 25,000,000\$ in dividends. The property includes 27 claims between Ferreira and Crown Reef.

Mail sent to points in Great Britain and Ireland will be carried for two cents after the first of the coming month. In the past the charge has been three cents per letter. Through a new postal understanding with the British empire it has been arranged that a reduction in the postal charge can be made without subjecting the international mail between the two countries to delays.

New Furnace Runs Smoothly.

Last week the new 500-ton furnace which was started at the Calumet and Arizona smelter, was reported to be giving excellent results. This furnace has the same capacity as the furnaces of the Copper Queen and will handle 200 tons of ore daily more than either of the old furnaces at the C. & A. plant. Good speed was made in the construction of this new furnace, construction work requiring less than 60 days after all the material was on hand. No. 2 furnace, one of the first to be put in service at the C. and A. was allowed to cool and work started on the enlargement of this furnace to something like the capacity of the new one, it being the intention to overhaul and enlarge all the old furnaces one at a time, so as not to interfere with production during its progress. The furnace now idle had been in continuous operation for more than thirteen months and was fully ready for attention in the way of repairs.—American.

Arizona Socks.

"Uncle Jake" Neff, former lieutenant governor, was discussing the early California mining days.

"Flour sacs were valuable. You unraveled the sewing down one side and you had a piece of cloth about a yard square. Shaken and washed, it made good patches for underclothes on a pinch and made miners' towels. But their chief use was for 'Arizona socks.' One flour sack would make three good pairs. You ripped the piece into three-inch strips. Soft and nice on the feet, too. Just put your foot down, laid one end of it flat along the instep, folding about two inches under the toes and then wrapped around the foot and up the ankle, with a final tuck in. No darning, you could reverse ends; wear fine, too."

Nevada Has Highest Peak.

Unmarked upon any map, missed by all the government's geodetic surveyors and unheard of by science, the highest and most remarkable mountain in the United States has just been discovered in a remote part of Nevada by State Engineer Nicholas. This is Mount Cedar, which Mr. Nicholas finds to be bigger than Shasta, Whitney or Ranier, the monarchs of the Sierra Nevada, and to be so straight-sided upon one face that stones dropped from its bulging summit fall more than a mile before they strike.

Mount Cedar is in White Pine county, in eastern Nevada, one of the unexplored corners of the West. It is about 300 miles northeasterly across the desert from Goldfield. The nearest town is Ely, 80 miles away.—Searchlight Bulletin.

Albert S. Bigelow scored a point in his fight against the 2,000,000\$ verdict in the case of the Old Dominion Copper Mining & Smelting company today, when the supreme court issued an order whereby Bigelow's counsel will argue before Judge Braley as to whether the court will allow Bigelow to file a supplementary answer in the suit. Mr. Bigelow claims he should be allowed to plead the decision of the supreme court of the United States in the Lewisohn case as a bar to further action against him in the present suit. In the Lewisohn case, claimed to be identical with Bigelow's, the supreme court of the United States declared no further action in the suit could be taken out before the state courts.—Boston Financial News.

The great fire in the Dos Bocas oil well, near Tampico was extinguished on Sunday night, after burning for nearly two months, and consuming about 3,000,000 barrels of oil. This information was received at the office of S. Pearson & Son yesterday afternoon by telegraph, the message having been taken to Tampico by boat. According to this information, the fire was extinguished by the gravel which was thrown into the crater during the past ten days, and by continued heavy blasts of dynamite, which thus concentrated the gravel pack.—Mexican Herald.